


Taking The Scenic Route

A guide to Idaho's scenic byways

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Welcome to Idaho! Here you will find an abundance of natural beauty and recreational opportunities that make any trip worthwhile.

Through this state's picturesque landscape, there are 35,000 miles of roads leading to Idaho's special places. While every road reveals at least a small piece of Idaho's natural beauty, some roads have gained special status as Idaho's scenic byways. These routes are designated in a partnership with local entities and several state and federal agencies. Scenic byways enjoy special

protection and offer facilities such as turnoffs, overlooks, picnic areas, walkways, and campgrounds to motorists and bicyclists. And best of all, these roadways pass through some of the most breathtaking and intriguing landscapes in Idaho.

Each scenic byway offers travelers unique landscape, climate, and wildlife. A day's drive can take a traveler to wild rivers, lush forests, deserts, and clear mountain lakes.

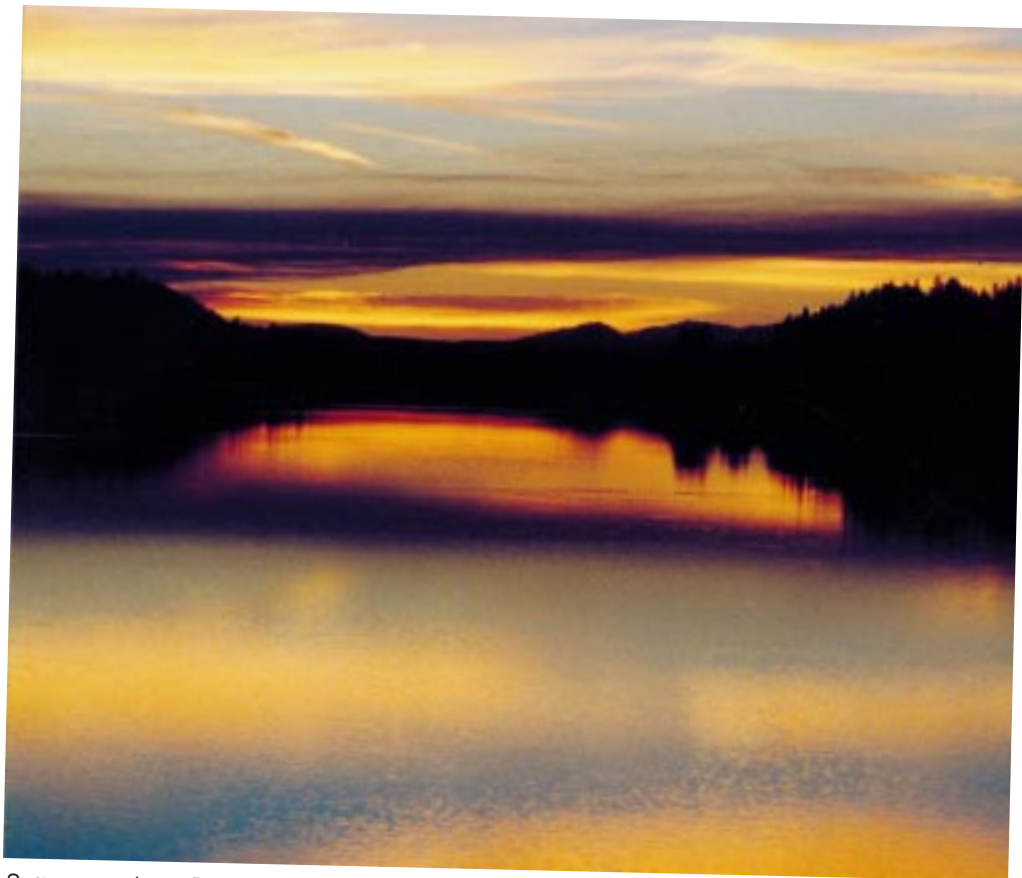
This booklet is a glovebox guide to Idaho's scenic byways and the natural attractions through which they pass. The scenic byways are referred to by name and location. The number of miles and amount of time needed to travel them are also listed for your trip-planning purposes. A description of the roadway's surface and grade, and the availability of roadside services including rest stops, campgrounds, and special attractions are also listed for your reference. Services are listed as "full" when gas, food, and lodging are available. "Partial" services include gas and a few other services. Rest areas generally offer only restrooms, telephones, vending machines, and a place to pull off.

For more information about Idaho's recreation opportunities, call 1-800-VISIT-ID. Please remember to always buckle up and observe posted speed limits. Have a great trip!

On the cover: Salmon River and Sawtooth Mountains at sunrise.
Photo by: Glenn Oakley



Canola fields and the Teton Mountains. Photo by: Steve Bly



Summer evening at Priest River. Photo by: Steve Klatt

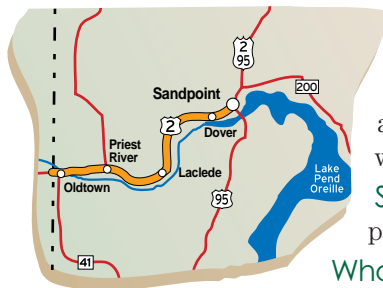
Panhandle Historic Rivers Passage Scenic Byway

Traverse the river route that explorer David Thompson first canoed in 1809 in search of a passage to the Columbia River, and let the scenic beauty and history along the Pend Oreille (pond-er-ay) River enrich your drive through Idaho's Panhandle.

The Panhandle Historic Rivers Passage begins at the Washington State line and follows the northern shore of the Pend Oreille River through Oldtown, Priest River, and ends in Sandpoint.

Enjoy driving along miles of soothing

river scenery that reflects the pastoral beauty of surrounding forests and farms; pull over and be entertained by varying seasonal wildlife, birds of prey, and waterfowl; or stop and absorb the history of northern Idaho in three different museums along the byway. Convenient access to the Pend Oreille River at four recreation areas provides opportunities to swim or boat along spacious, gently-flowing waters. Winter recreation includes snow sports on state and federal lands, ice fishing when it is cold, and downhill skiing at Schweitzer.



Camping: “Mudhole” Recreation Area at Priest River and Riley Creek Recreation Area eight miles further west at Laclede; numerous other camping sites within area including beautiful Priest Lake.

Services: Full services in Priest River and Sandpoint; partial services in Oldtown.

Who to call: Priest River Chamber of Commerce: (208) 448-2721; Sandpoint Visitor Center: (800) 800-2106; Albeni Falls Visitor Center: (208) 437-3133.



Byway: Panhandle Historic Rivers Passage

Location: Begins at the Washington State line and follows U.S. 2 to Sandpoint.

Length: 28.5 miles. Allow 40 minutes.

Roadway: U.S. 2 is a two-lane road with no passing lanes. It can be icy during winter months.

When to see it: Year round. Eagles in the winter, osprey in the summer, waterfowl in the spring and fall. Nature's palette of vegetation colors, particularly spring and fall.

Special attraction: Pend Oreille and Priest River, Kaniksu National Forest, Priest River Wildlife Area, Albeni Falls Dam Visitor Center, three Historical Museums, and Priest River's historic downtown.



Albeni Cove on Pend Oreille River. Photo by: Steve Klatt



Pend Oreille Scenic Byway

Lake Pend Oreille (pond-uh-ray) is not only the largest lake in Idaho, it is also one of the most beautiful. This fishing and boating paradise is 43 miles long and, in places, 1,000 feet deep.

The Pend Oreille Scenic Byway starts near the resort town of Sandpoint and snakes its way along the north end of Lake Pend Oreille on Idaho 200 to the Montana State line.

Pulling off the road to enjoy Lake Pend Oreille, anglers will find more than 14 different species of game fish. If you're the kind of person who loves the water but gets squeamish at the mere thought of baiting a hook, don't worry. Lake Pend Oreille also offers fantastic boating, water skiing, and 111 miles of beautiful shoreline on which to enjoy the water and the lush, green mountain view.



Sailboats docked, Lake Pend Oreille. Photo by: Glenn Oakley



Lake Pend Oreille. Photo by: Glenn Oakley

Byway: Pend Oreille Scenic Byway

Location: Begins at U.S. 95 north of Sandpoint and follows Idaho 200 to the Montana State line.

Length: 33.4 miles. Allow 45 minutes.

Roadway: Idaho 200 is a two-lane road with no passing lanes. It can be icy during winter months.

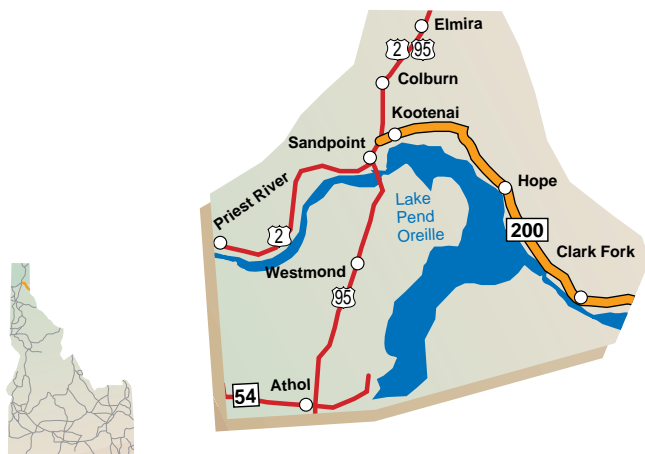
When to see it: Year round.

Special attractions: Lake Pend Oreille; Pack River Flats Refuge; Kaniksu National Forest.

Camping: Samowen Campground, 8 miles northwest of Clark Fork.

Services: Full services in Sandpoint, Ponderay, Hope; partial services in Clark Fork.

Who to call: Sandpoint Visitor Center: (800) 800-2106; Hope Chamber of Commerce: P.O. Box 304, Hope, ID 83836; Sandpoint Ranger District: (208) 263-5111.





Lake Coeur d'Alene and White Pine Scenic Byways

Visitors to the northern region of Idaho can travel on two connected scenic byways that snake along the sparkling waters of Lake Coeur d'Alene (cör-da-lane) and through the towering forests of Idaho's timber country.

The Lake Coeur d'Alene Scenic Byway travels an area where the lakes, mountains, and beautiful summer

weather have made it one of the most famous summer playgrounds in the Pacific Northwest.

Bring your binoculars! The shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene are home to the largest population of nesting osprey in the Western states.



Lake Coeur d'Alene at Chatcolet Cove. Photo by: Glenn Oakley

The route follows the eastern shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene on Idaho 97 to Idaho 3.

The White Pine Scenic Byway begins on Idaho 3 at Interstate 90 near Cataldo, where you can visit the famous 1840s Old Mission of the Sacred Heart, and passes through the deeply contrasting forests of Idaho's timber country to St. Maries. It crosses the picturesque St. Maries and St. Joe rivers to Idaho 6 and then meanders south through the St. Joe National Forest and the rolling hills of the Palouse region on Idaho 6 to its junction with U.S. 95.

Byway: Lake Coeur d'Alene Scenic Byway

Location: Begins at the junction of Interstate 90 and Idaho 97 and follows Idaho 97 south and east along Lake Coeur d'Alene to Idaho 3.

Length: 35.8 miles. Allow 1.5 hours.

Roadway: Idaho 97 is a two-lane, winding road with no passing lanes and can be icy in the winter.

When to see it: Year round. Eagle watching is great in December and January.

Special attractions: Lake Coeur d'Alene; Mineral Ridge Trail at Beauty Bay; Caribou Ridge National Recreation Trail.

Camping: Beauty Creek east of Beauty Bay, Bell Bay near Harrison.



The St. Joe River along Idaho 3. Photo by: Steve Bly

Services: Partial services in Carlin Bay, Harrison, Cataldo.

Who to call: Coeur d'Alene-Post Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau: (208) 773-9797 or 800-286-5544; Harrison Chamber of Commerce: (208) 689-3529; Idaho Panhandle National Forest: (208) 765-7223.

Byway: White Pine Scenic Byway

Location: From the junction of Interstate 90 and Idaho 3, south on Idaho 3 to Idaho 6, then southwest to U.S. 95 at Potlatch.

Length: 82.8 miles. Allow 2 hours.

Roadway: Idaho 3 and Idaho 6 are both two-lane roads with no passing lanes.

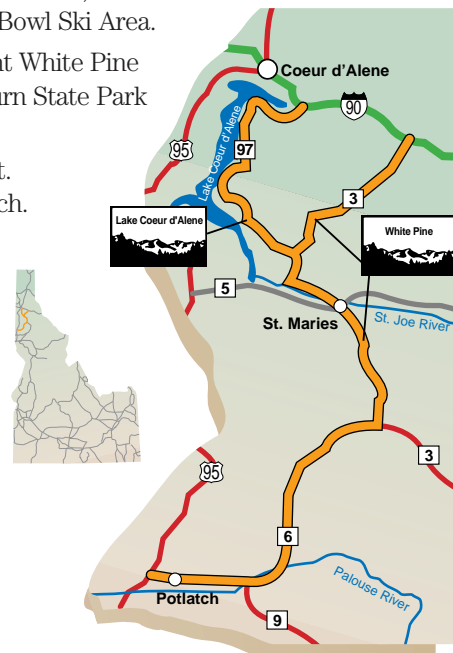
When to see it: Year round.

Special attractions: Old Mission State Park; Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area; St. Joe National Forest; North-South Bowl Ski Area.

Camping: Laird Park, Giant White Pine Park north of Harvard, Heyburn State Park west of St. Maries.

Services: Full services in St. Maries; partial services in Potlatch.

Who to call: Coeur d'Alene-Post Falls Convention and Visitor Bureau: (208) 773-9797; St. Maries Chamber of Commerce: (208) 245-3563; Idaho Panhandle National Forest: (208) 245-2531; Old Mission State Park: (208) 682-3814.





Thimbleberry on the Clearwater River. Photo by: Mark Lisk

Idaho's Northwest Passage Scenic Byway

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to find the Northwest Passage — the link between the Missouri River and the Columbia River through the unexplored Rocky Mountains.

This beautiful byway passes through the winding Clearwater River Canyon from the junction of US 95 & US 12 near Spalding, Idaho and divides at the junction of US 12 and Idaho 13 at Kooskia, Idaho. One part of the scenic byway follows Idaho 13 south to the Camas Prairie, ending at Grangeville, Idaho. The other part of the scenic byway continues on US 12 to the Idaho-Montana border. The scenic byway that follows US 12 above Kooskia follows the Middlefork of the Clearwater River, the Lochsa Wild & Scenic River and parallels the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail located on the mountainous ridges above.

Byway: Northwest Passage Scenic Byway

Location: Begins at the junction of US 12 & US 95 at Spalding, Idaho and follows U.S. 12 northeast to the Idaho - Montana border; also follows Idaho 13 from Kooskia to Grangeville and the junction of US 95.

Length: 191 miles. Allow 4.5 hours.

Roadway: U.S. 12 above Kooskia, Idaho is a winding, two lane road with occasional passing lanes and slow vehicle turnouts. During winter months drivers may experience some snow covered roads as one nears Lolo Pass at the Montana border.

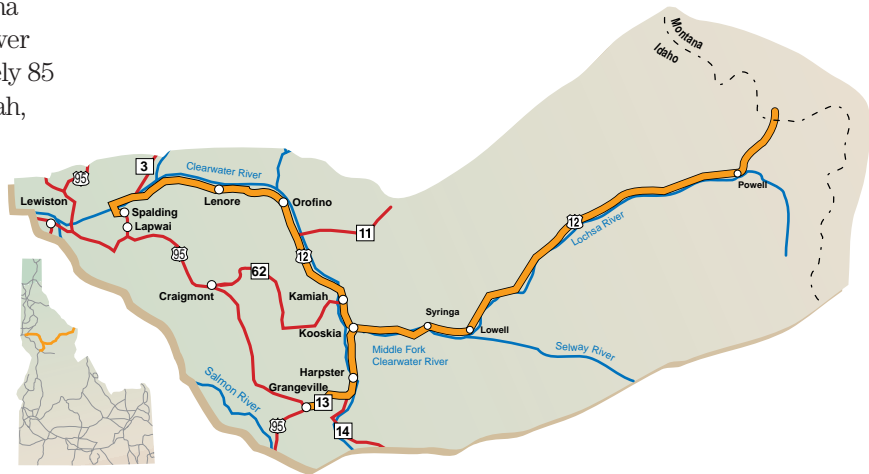
When to see it: Year around. Whitewater rafting and kayaking is popular during the months of May, June and July.

Special attractions: US 12, from Kooskia to the Montana border, parallels the largest wilderness area found in the lower contiguous 48 states; it has limited services for approximately 85 miles. Other attractions are: Canoe Camp at Orofino, Kamiah, Kooskia Crossing Kiosk, Heart of the Monster Park Site, Selway River, Lochsa Historic Ranger Station, Powell Ranger Station, guided horseback rides available, DeVoto Grove, Lolo Pass Visitor Center, guided whitewater raft trips, Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail sites (i. e., Whitehouse Pond and Glade Creek Camp), winter play at the Lolo Pass, and Clearwater Battlefield.

Camping: Kooskia, Syringa, Lowell and at numerous Forest Service camp sites i. e., Wild Goose, Wilderness Gateway, Jerry Johnson, Wendover, Whitehorse and Whitesands.

Services: Full services in Orofino, Kamiah and Kooskia; partial services in Spalding, Myrtle, Lenore, Syringa, Lowell and Powell.

Who to call: Kooskia Chamber of Commerce: (208) 926-7855; Clearwater National Forest: (208) 476-4541; Lochsa Ranger District: (208) 926-4274; Dworshak State Park: (208) 476-5994; Nez Perce National Forest: (208) 983-1950; Orofino Chamber of Commerce: (208) 476-4335; and the Nez Perce National Historical Park: (208) 843-2261.





Bald Eagles make their nests along the South Fork of the Payette River. Photo by Karen Wattenmaker

Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway

With the wild turbulent force of the South Fork of the Payette River leading the way, visitors revel not only in the beauty of the canyon formed by the powerful river, but also in the roaming wildlife that call this home as well.

Herds of elk numbering near one hundred are not an unusual sight when traveling along the Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway. Their winter range is located near the middle of the route close to the Danskin river access. Along with elk are mule deer, whitetail deer, chukers, wild turkeys, eagles, ospreys, cougars, bears and wolves which frequent this area. Soaring eagles and leaping fish entertain visitors who stop and enjoy the area.

Numerous campgrounds are located along the route. Several of these have natural hot springs located within or near the area for visitors to enjoy. Boise National Forest is host to most of these campgrounds, and several trails are available for hiking and biking. Fishing and rafting are also enjoyable activities afforded along the route. In winter months, summer hiking trails provide miles of snowmobile and skiing pleasure and adventure.

Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway joins two other scenic byways forming a one-day drive from Idaho's capital city of Boise. It can be accessed either by the Ponderosa Scenic Byway on Idaho 21 or by the Payette River Scenic Byway on Idaho 55. Either route connects with this 33-mile trip through some of the most powerful canyon scenery offered in the state. A one day trip from Boise along these Byways affords visitors a glimpse of the pioneering spirit of early Idaho and the awesome beauty of Idaho's wildlife and whitewater.



Sport fishing along the South Fork of the Payette River.
Photo by Karen Wattenmaker

Byway: Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway

Location: The route travels along the Banks/Lowman road. It can be accessed either at Banks along Idaho 55 or at Lowman along Idaho 21. Either point of access brings the traveler back to a route leading to Boise.

Length: 33 miles. Allow one hour. Allow 3 hours for the loop from Boise and back.

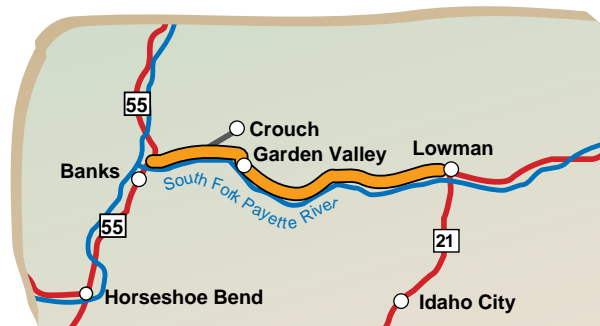
Roadway: This is a two-lane roadway with no passing lanes, but there are several turnouts for scenic viewing. The paved roadway is maintained year round, but often has a snow floor during winter months.

When to see it: There are year-round opportunities for wildlife viewing with exceptional elk viewing in winter and spring. In summer months this stretch of river is world renowned for rafting and kayaking.

Special Attractions: The winter range for elk is located within a five-mile section in the middle of the route near the Danskin river-access point. Visitors are treated to large herds along this area during winter and spring months. The migratory and nesting route for Canada geese is located here also. The South Fork of the Payette River offers world-class rafting and kayaking. Visitors are treated to the acrobatics of kayakers in class IV conditions along several points of the river. Commercial rafting companies offer several different trips down the river.

Camping: Hot Springs Campground, Pine Flats Campground, RV parks in Crouch and Garden Valley.

Who to call: Boise National Forest (208)373-4007; Garden Valley Chamber of Commerce (208)462-5003





Rail fence below McGowan Peak. Photo by: Patrick W. Stoll

Sawtooth, Ponderosa Pine, and Salmon River Scenic Byways

The Central Idaho town of Stanley is the only place in the state where three scenic byways meet, and those byways happen to be the only three routes into town. No matter which way you drive in or out, you're in for a treat.

Sawtooth Scenic Byway has the distinction of being the 100th National Forest Scenic Byway. It takes you along the Sawtooth Mountains—the heart of the Idaho Rockies. From Shoshone to the south, this byway rolls northward through fertile agricultural land to the resort towns of Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley and then carves its way through the rocks and woodlands of the rugged Sawtooth National Recreation Area, which is packed with rivers, streams, and 300 alpine lakes.

This region provides top-notch venues for camping, boating, downhill and nordic skiing, fishing, hiking, and hunting. Wildlife watchers should stay alert; the 756,000-acre recreational area is home to many species of wildlife, including antelope, deer, elk, and bear.

The Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway starts in Boise, the “City of Trees” and Idaho’s capital. From there it follows Idaho 21 north to the historic mining town of Idaho City, where you can still pan for gold in a nearby streambed. North of Lowman, before arriving in Stanley, the roadway squeezes between two of Idaho’s wilderness areas. On the right, the Sawtooth Wilderness and its 217,000 pristine acres of ponderosa pine and steelhead fishing, to the left, the Challis National Forest, entryway to the 2.3-million-acre Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. There are more contiguous acres of roadless wilderness in this region than anywhere else in the lower 48 states.

The Salmon River Scenic Byway begins near the Montana border at the 6,995-foot-high Lost Trail Pass. Lewis and Clark came this way in 1805 when their native guide lost the trail. The spectacular view from this vantage point has changed little since those travelers explored the West many years ago.

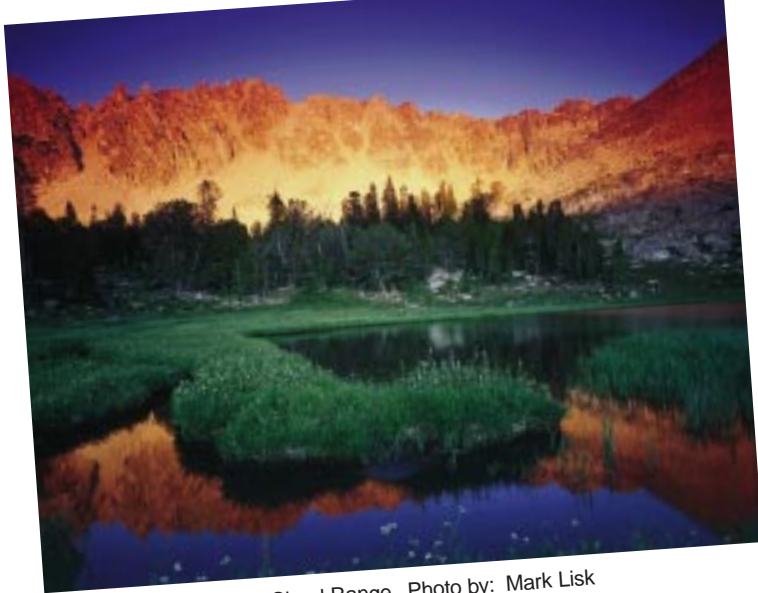
This route to Stanley follows the Salmon River through the Salmon and Challis National Forests. The river and its forks serve as important natural pathways into Idaho’s rugged back country. The deer, elk, and moose that often graze along the hills and meadows that line this road provide a glimpse of what is found in the wild country beyond.





Little Redfish Lake. Photos by: Glenn Oakley





Born Lakes in the White Cloud Range. Photo by: Mark Lisk

Byway: Sawtooth Scenic Byway

Location: Idaho 75 north to Stanley from Shoshone.

Length: 115.7 miles. Allow 3 hours.

Roadway: Two-lane road with some passing lanes.

From Galena Summit to Stanley the road is winding with 5 to 6 percent grades. Winter weather can be severe. Check conditions before traveling.

When to see it: Year round.

Special attractions: Sawtooth National Recreation Area; world-famous Sun Valley resort; Redfish and Little Redfish lakes; audio-cassette milepost tours available at Ketchum and Stanley Ranger Stations and Redfish Lake Visitor Center.

Camping: Easley Hot Springs, Alturas, Redfish and Little Redfish lakes.

Services: Full services in Shoshone, Hailey, Ketchum, Sun Valley, Stanley; partial services in Obsidian; rest area on U.S. 20 at the junction with Idaho 75.

Who to call: Stanley Ranger Station: (208) 774-3000; Stanley Sawtooth Chamber of Commerce: (208) 774-3411; Sawtooth NRA Headquarters: (208) 727-5013; Sun Valley/Ketchum Chamber of Commerce: 1-800-634-3347; during summer: Redfish Lake Visitor Center (208) 774-3376

Byway: Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway

Location: From Boise on Idaho 21 northeast to the junction of Idaho 75 at Stanley.

Length: 130.9 miles. Allow 3 hours.

Roadway: A narrow, winding road with some steep grades. Two lanes with some passing lanes. There usually is a snow floor north of Lowman during winter. Severe avalanche conditions exist in the Banner Summit area and closures can be frequent. Check conditions before traveling in winter!

When to see it: Year round. May be closed in winter.

Special attractions: Lucky Peak and Arrow Rock Reservoirs; Lucky Peak State Park; Idaho City; Sawtooth Wilderness; Stanley Lake; Boise, Challis and Sawtooth National Forests; audio cassette milepost tour available at Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation Office and Boise National Forest Supervisor's Office in Boise and Idaho City, Lowman, and Stanley Ranger Stations.

Camping: Several locations in Idaho City, Lowman, and Stanley areas.

Services: Full services in Boise and Stanley; partial services in Idaho City and Lowman.

Who to call: Boise National Forest: (208) 373-4007; Stanley Ranger Station: (208) 774-3000.

Byway: Salmon River Scenic Byway

Location: From Stanley east on Idaho 75 to U.S. 93 and north to the Montana State line.

Length: 161.7 miles. Allow 3.5 hours.

Roadway: Two-lane road with no passing lanes and some 35-mph curves.

When to see it: Best weather for travel is April to November.

Special attractions: Salmon spawning beds at Indian Riffles; Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Center at

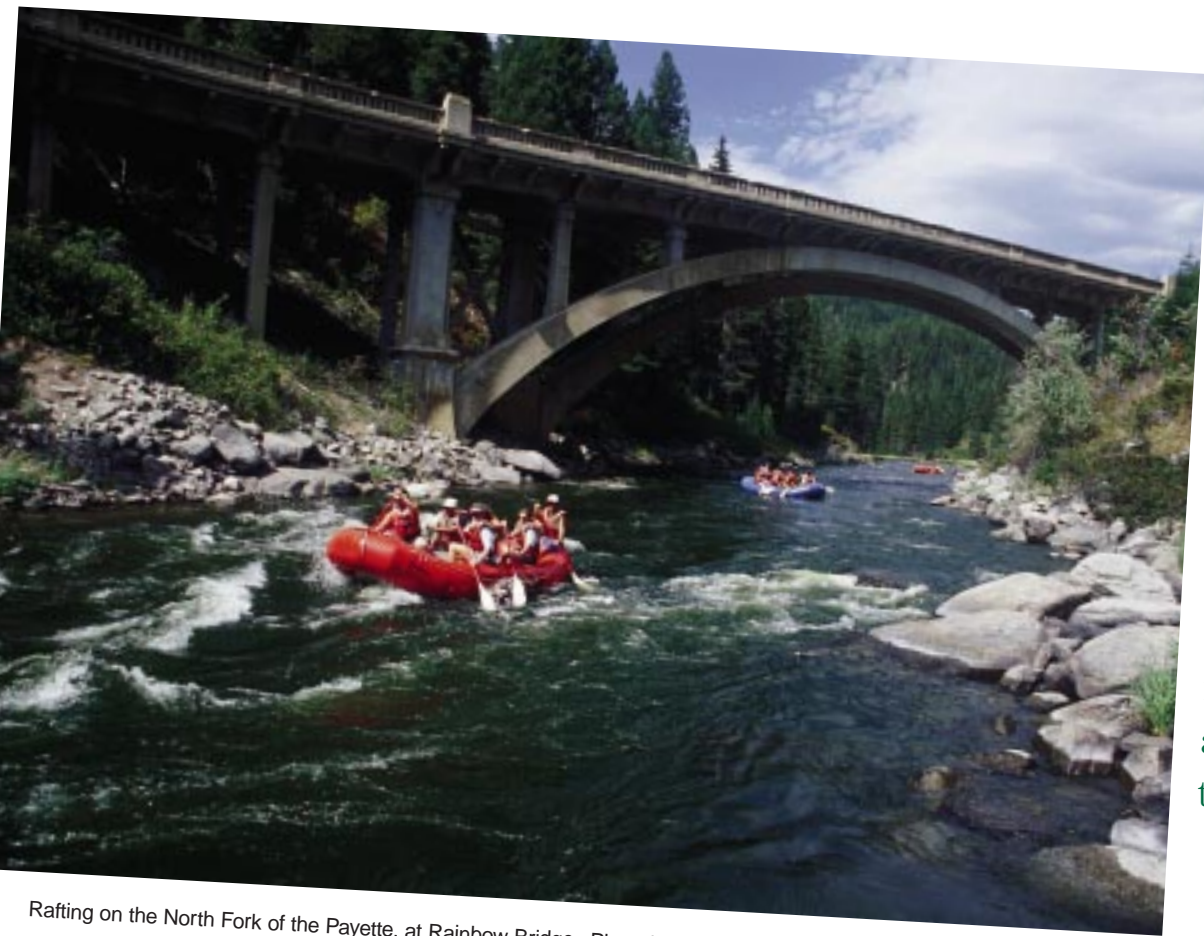
Idaho 75 and U.S. 93; Tower Rock; access to Continental Divide National Scenic Trail; access to Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; Challis, Salmon, and Sawtooth National Forests.

Camping: Riverside, Mormon Bend, Salmon River, Yankee Fork, Holman Creek, Spring Gulch, Cottonwood, Shoup Bridge, Tower Rock, Twin Creek.

Services: Full services in Stanley, Challis, Salmon, North Fork; partial services in Clayton, Gibbonsville.

Who to call: Stanley Ranger Station: (208) 774-3000; Sawtooth National Forest (208) 727-5013; Challis and Salmon National Forests: (208) 756-2215; Yankee Fork Ranger District: (208) 838-2201; during summer Redfish Lake Visitor Center (208) 774-3376.





Payette River Scenic Byway

The Payette River is a prime example of the wet and wild whitewater experience that has made Idaho famous with rafters, canoeists, and kayakers around the world.

Rafting on the North Fork of the Payette, at Rainbow Bridge. Photo by: Glenn Oakley



Starting in Boise, the Payette River Scenic Byway winds, twists, and crisscrosses its way along this wild river for more than 40 miles on Idaho 55. From the junction of Idaho 44 and Idaho 55 west of Idaho's capital city of Boise, this byway heads north on Idaho 55 to Horseshoe Bend where it meets the river, following it through the Boise and Payette National Forests and the popular resort towns of Cascade and McCall before reaching the northern end of the byway at New Meadows.

For motorists, it can be a distracting drive as the river crashes and tumbles its way over the rocks through this narrow river valley. Depending on where you are on the river, it can be a mild ripple or a wild torrent. There are occasional pull-offs where you can view the wilder parts and treat your senses to the sight, sound, smell, and rhythm of Idaho's famous whitewater.

Along this byway are some great locations for camping, hiking, boating, fishing, and guided float trips. Outfitters offer river excursions that range from half-day to three-day outings in rafts or kayaks.

The mountain resort town of McCall sits next to Payette Lake and is a great year-round getaway. However, it is particularly famous for its annual Winter Carnival, when its streets are lined with ice sculptures.

Byway: Payette River Scenic Byway

Location: From the junction of U.S. 95 at New Meadows along Idaho 55 south to Idaho 44 west of Boise.

Length: 111.7 miles. Allow 2 hours, 15 minutes.

Roadway: Narrow, winding, two-lane road with occasional passing lanes and slow vehicle turnouts.

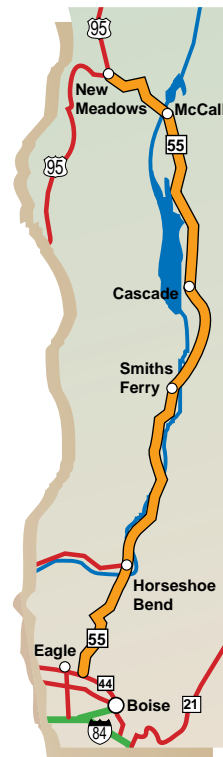
When to see it: Year round. The McCall Winter Carnival takes place in late January or early February.

Special attractions: Guided float trips on the Payette River; Cascade Reservoir; snowmobiling and cross-country skiing at Smiths Ferry; Ponderosa State Park on Payette Lake; Brundage Mountain Ski Area; Boise and Payette National Forests.

Camping: Ponderosa State Park, Cascade Reservoir, several north of Banks area, McCall area.

Services: Full services in Boise, Cascade, McCall; partial services in Horseshoe Bend, Donnelly, New Meadows.

Who to call: Boise National Forest: (208) 373-4007; Payette National Forest: (208) 634-0700; McCall Visitors' Bureau: (208) 634-7631; Ponderosa State Park: (208) 634-2164.



Hells Canyon Scenic Byway

At over 8,000 feet deep, Hells Canyon is the deepest river gorge in

North America. The views from the roadway above these towering canyon walls, and from below on the winding Snake River, defy the imagination.

The Hells Canyon Scenic Byway winds its way along the east side of this massive rift that separates Idaho from its neighbor, Oregon. While the view from the road is breathtaking, a guided float trip or jetboat tour is a must. Towering cliffs of black and green basalt hang so high above the Snake River and its sandy beaches that boaters strain their necks to see out in places.

Outfitters offer one-to six-day trips into the famous Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Any one of these trips is well worth it and should not be passed up.

Byway: Hells Canyon Scenic Byway

Location: Hells Canyon Road from Oxbow Bridge near

Copperfield, Oregon, north along the Idaho side of the Snake River to Hells Canyon Dam.

Length: 22 miles.
Allow 45 minutes each way.

Roadway: Hells Canyon Road is a narrow, winding road with several steep grades. It is maintained all year.

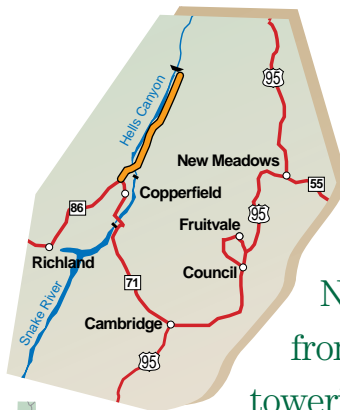
When to see it:
Year round.

Special attractions:
Hells Canyon National Recreation Area; guided float and jetboat trips on the Snake River; guided tours of Hells Canyon Dam.

Camping: Copperfield Park, Hells Canyon Park.

Services: Partial services 2.5 miles west of Copperfield.

Who to call: Payette National Forest: (208) 549-4200; Idaho Power Co.: (800) 422-3143; Hells Canyon National Recreation Area: (208) 628-3916.



Snake River above Hells Canyon Dam.
Photo by: Glenn Oakley

City of Rocks Back Country Byway

Forming a 49-mile “necklace” around the Albion Mountain Range, the City of Rocks Byway traverses historically significant rural landscape that preserves numerous unique attributes of Western development.

The City of Rocks area’s historic and geological values, pristine scenic beauty, and opportunities for recreation led to its designation as a national reserve. The City of Rocks National Reserve rivals Yosemite National Park as a favorite of technical rock climbers as it contains a great number and variety of climbs.

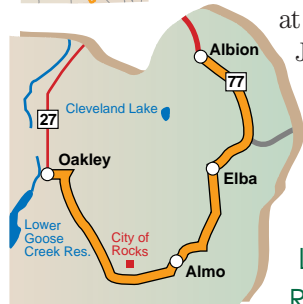


Byway: City of Rocks Back Country Byway

Location: The route begins along Idaho 77 at Albion south to the Connor Creek Junction, and continues south through Elba and Almo and the scenic City of Rocks National Reserve. From the Reserve, the route follows Birch Creek to the City of Oakley and the Oakley Historic District where it joins Idaho 27.

Length: 49 miles. Allow 1 hour.

Roadway: Paved secondary highway



City of Rocks. Photo by: City of Rocks National Reserve

from Albion to Connor Creek Junction. Connor Creek to Almo is a narrow winding paved road, and from Almo to Oakley the road is graveled until it joins Idaho 27 at Oakley.

When to see it: Year round.

Special attractions: The beautiful Albion Valley, including Pomerelle Ski Area and Lake Cleveland recreation area; the Silent City of Rocks National Reserve; Oakley Historic District.

Camping: Howell Canyon and City of Rocks with R.V. parks in Oakley, and at the 1-84 Interchange at the Snake River.

Services: Full services in Burley; food and lodging in Albion; partial services in Oakley.

Who to call: City of Rocks National Reserve: (208) 824-5535; Sawtooth National Forest: (208) 678-0430; Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce (208) 678-7230.

Lewis and Clark Back Country Byway

Almost 200 years ago, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark stood high on a ridge-line that divides continental waters, and began the discovery of the Pacific Northwest.

Stands of fir and pine trees, high-mountain meadows and rolling, jade-colored hills look much the same today as when the famous explorers journeyed to the crest of Lemhi Pass in 1805.

As you travel the Lewis and Clark Back Country Byway, you'll see where the expedition unfurled the flag of the United States for the first time west of the Rocky Mountains, as well as spectacular vistas of the Lemhi Pass, Salmon River, Rocky and Lost River mountain ranges, rolling sagebrush and alpine meadows, wildlife, and carpets of wildflowers.

Byway: Lewis and Clark Back Country Byway

Location: The byway begins about 20 miles south of Salmon, Idaho. Turn east from Idaho 28 at the Tendoy intersection.

Length: 39 miles.
Allow 3 hours.

Roadway: Roads are mostly single lane and graveled.

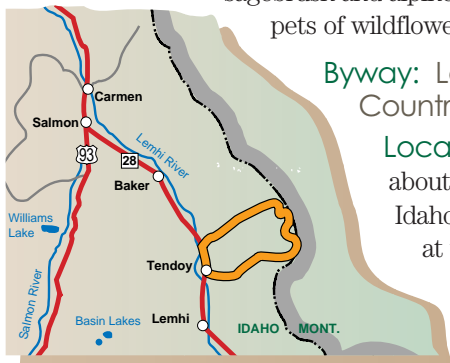
When to see it: Snow usually closes the roads from November until June. Summer and early fall are the best times of the year to make the journey. Beware of muddy roads in late spring and early summer. The route is groomed in the winter months and is popular with snow-mobilers.

Special attractions: Mountain scenery; the first Idaho campsite of the Lewis and Clark expedition; Lemhi Pass, where the explorers crossed the Divide; Chief Tendoy's grave site.

Camping: There are no campgrounds along the byway itself; however, public campgrounds are located nearby.

Services: Full services in Salmon; limited services in Tendoy, Leadore, Lemhi; to the south, the nearest full-service community is Idaho Falls, about 140 miles away.

Who to call: The Bureau of Land Management's Salmon Field Office: (208) 756-5400; the Salmon National Forest: (208) 756-5100; the Salmon Valley Chamber of Commerce: (208) 756-2100.



A view from the Lewis and Clark Back Country Byway.
Photo by: Don Smurthwaite



Owyhee Uplands Back Country Byway

From expanses
of sagebrush
and wildflowers, to
sheer, red-walled river



canyons, the Owyhee Uplands represent
what many people believe the real
West is all about.

Look in the right places, and you'll be rewarded with the sight of deer or antelope. In remote areas, cougar and bighorn sheep roam.

You'll pass through hay meadows nestled among sagebrush-covered hills and the winding course of Jordan Creek. Soon, you're climbing into the mountains, the drive peppered with gnarled stands of juniper woodlands. The Santa Rosa Mountains and Jarbidge Mountains in Nevada, and Steens Mountain in Oregon, frame the picturesque desert. Idaho's Owyhee Mountains rise to the north. Sheer rock monoliths rise from the river's shoreline, and yellow and green mosses and lichens splash color on boulders.

Byway: Owyhee Uplands Back Country Byway

Location: The loop begins 80 miles southwest of Boise. It can

be reached from the west through Jordan Valley, Oregon, and from the east, on Idaho 78 near Grand View, Idaho.

Length: 101 miles. From Boise, it is an all-day trip.

Roadway: Mostly one and one-half lanes of graveled road.

When to see it: The byway is usually impassable from late November through spring because of snow. Also, precipitation can make the road treacherously slick. The best time of the year to drive the byway is in early summer.

Special attractions: Photographers can't resist shooting from an overlook point above the North Fork gorge. The mahogany woodlands offer a sweeping view, with the Owyhee Mountains as a backdrop.

Camping: BLM has one campsite, the North Fork Recreation Area, about 30 miles east of Jordan Valley.

Services: Full services in Jordan Valley; partial services in Grand View and Bruneau; no services on the byway itself.

Who to call: Lower Snake River District, Bureau of Land Management:
(208) 384-3300.



A view from the Owyhee Uplands Back Country Byway. Photo by: Diane Ronayne



Thousand Springs Scenic Byway

Driving through the Snake River Canyon on U.S. 30 between Hagerman and Twin Falls, it's easy to see how the Thousand Springs Scenic Byway got its name.



An abundance of natural springs gush from the steep canyon walls and cascade into the river below. The water source is the Snake River Plains Aquifer, one of the largest groundwater systems in the world. It creeps through an area of several thousand square miles under southern Idaho's porous volcanic rock before emerging from the springs in the cliffs.

Today, hydroelectric and irrigation projects divert some of the water. That's why you won't see literally a "Thousand Springs." However, it is still an impressive sight.

If you're on this route in early spring, don't miss Shoshone Falls. At 212 feet, it is 52 feet higher than Niagara Falls. It is most impressive while the spring

runoff is strong before water above is diverted for irrigation. Guided boat tours take visitors to the falls and many springs of the area and passengers get close enough to feel the spray in their faces.

Byway: Thousand Springs Scenic Byway

Location: Begins at Interstate 84 near Bliss and follows U.S. 30 southeast through Twin Falls to Idaho 50, then north on Idaho 50 to I-84. Also U.S. 93 from Twin Falls north to I-84.

Length: 67.8 miles. Allow 1.5 hours.

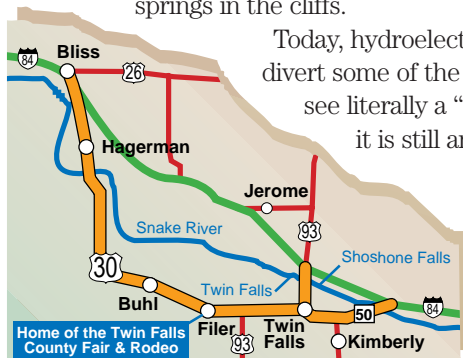
Roadway: U.S. 30 and Idaho 50 are two-lane roads with some passing lanes.

When to see it: Year round. The Hagerman Valley is known for its very mild winters. The best time to see Shoshone Falls and Twin Falls is in early spring.

Special attractions: Thousand Springs; Hagerman Valley; Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument; Clear Springs Visual Center; Malad Gorge State Park; Niagara Springs State Park; Shoshone Falls; Twin Falls.

Camping: Many private campgrounds along entire route.

Services: Full services in Bliss, Hagerman, Buhl, Kimberly, Twin Falls; partial services in Filer; rest areas south of Hagerman and at the junction of U.S. 93 and I-84.



Who to call:

Buhl Chamber of
Commerce: (208)
543-6682; Malad
Gorge State Park:
(208) 837-4505;
Hagerman Fossil
Beds National
Monument: (208)
837-4793; Niagra
Springs State Park:
(208) 837-4505;
South Central Idaho
Travel Committee:
(800) 255-8946.



Shoshone Falls on the Snake River. Photo by: Steve Bly



Autumn colors and the Tetons near Felt, Idaho.
Photo by: Patrick W. Stoll

Teton and Mesa Falls Scenic Byways

A trip along Idaho's eastern border allows travelers to drive two interconnecting scenic byways that offer two distinct, yet equally breathtaking landscapes.

The jagged teeth of the Teton Mountain Range actually rise from along Wyoming's western border, but Idahoans know the best view of these massive peaks is from the Teton Scenic Byway. At nearly 10 million years young, the Tetons are the newest mountains in the Rockies. In fact,

they continue to grow today at the snail-like pace of about an inch every hundred years. The largest peak on the range, Grand Teton, now stands at 13,772 feet.

Where the Teton Scenic Byway reaches its northern end in Ashton, the Mesa Falls Scenic Byway begins.

The main attractions on this route are the Upper and Lower Mesa Falls, which are the last major falls in Idaho that

have not been used for irrigation or hydroelectric projects. At 110 feet and 85 feet, respectively, they offer equally spectacular views in a beautiful forest setting. The upper waterfall has been developed with paths and viewing areas and is easily accessible to all.

Byway: Teton Scenic Byway

Location: Begins on Idaho 31 at Swan Valley northeast to Idaho 33 at Victor. North on Idaho 33 to Idaho 32, north on Idaho 32 to Idaho 47, and west on Idaho 47 to U.S. 20 at Ashton.

Length: 68.9 miles. Allow 2.5 hours.

Roadway: Two-lane roadway with no passing lanes. Pine Creek Pass has 6-percent grades, some 35-mph curves, and often has a snow floor in winter.

When to see it: Year round, but fall foliage is spectacular.

Special attractions: Great views of the Teton Mountains; Targhee National Forest; Grand Targhee Ski Area near Driggs.

Camping: Small campgrounds at Pine Creek.

Services: Full services in Swan Valley, Victor, Driggs, Teton, Ashton.

Who to call: Palisades Ranger District: (208) 523-1412;
Ashton Ranger District: (208) 652-7442.

Byway: Mesa Falls Scenic Byway

Location: The southern end is at Idaho 47 in Ashton, northeast 12.4 miles to the old Bear Gulch Ski Area site, then northwest along Forest Service Route 294 to the northern end at U.S. 20.

Length: 28.7 miles. Allow 1 hour.

Roadway: Idaho 47 is a two-lane road. Forest Service Route 294 is closed in winter and becomes a Forest Service snowmobile route.

When to see it: In the winter the Forest Service road becomes one of many snowmobile trails in the area. If you have a snowmobile or cross-country skis, winter is the time to go; if you don't, there is no access. Spring through fall is great by car.

Special attractions: Upper Mesa Falls; Lower Mesa Falls; Harriman State Park on U.S. 20; many trails for bikes, horses, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiles.



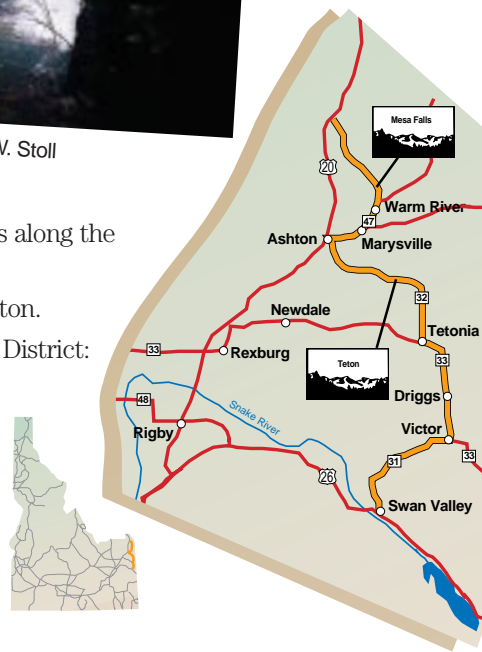
Upper Mesa Falls. Photo by: Patrick W. Stoll



Camping: Two campgrounds along the Warm River.

Services: Full services in Ashton.

Who to call: Ashton Ranger District:
(208) 652-7442;
Island Park Ranger District:
(208) 558-7301; Ashton
Chamber of Commerce:
(208) 558-7301.





Bear Lake-Caribou Scenic Byway

The southern end of the Bear Lake-Caribou Scenic Byway winds its way along the turquoise-blue waters of Bear Lake, the gem of Southeast Idaho.

Bear Lake straddles the Idaho-Utah border and boasts sandy beaches, great water sports, fishing, boating, and the famous Bear Lake State Park. This byway follows the lake north on U.S. 89 to Montpelier, then north on U.S. 30, where you leave the Cache National Forest and enter the Caribou National Forest.

At Soda Springs, this byway meets the Pioneer Historic Byway. From there the two byways share Idaho 34 north and east to the Wyoming border, passing Blackfoot Reservoir along the way.

Byway: Bear Lake-Caribou Scenic Byway

Location: Begins at the Utah state line and follows U.S. 89 north to U.S. 30, then north and east to Idaho 34 in Soda Springs. From there, north on Idaho 34 to the Wyoming state line.

Length: 111.3 miles. Allow 2.5 hours.

Roadway: This section of U.S. 89 is a two-lane road. It can receive heavy snowfall in winter. This section of U.S. 30 is a two-lane road with one short, 5 to 6 percent grade at Georgetown Summit. This section of Idaho 34 is a two-lane road with some steep grades. This is a very heavy snowfall area with occasional overnight closures and most winter travel being made on a snow floor.

When to see it: Year round.

Special attractions: Bear Lake; Bear Lake State Park; Paris Museum; Minnetonka Cave; Caribou National Forest; the Oregon Trail.

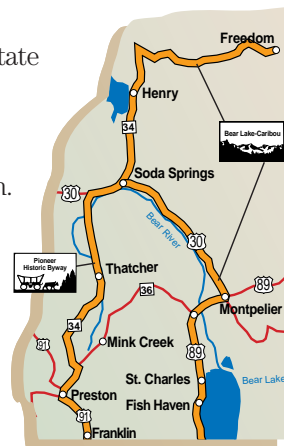
Camping: Several areas in Caribou National Forest, Bear Lake State Park, Montpelier Canyon.

Services: Full services in Montpelier, Soda Springs; partial services in Paris, Georgetown.

Who to call: Bear Lake State Park: (208) 945-2790; Bear Lake Convention and Visitors' Bureau: (800) 448-2327; Montpelier Ranger District: (208) 847-0375; Soda Springs Ranger District: (208) 547-4356.



Bear Lake Recreation Area.
Photo by: Bear Lake Regional Commission



Pioneer Historic Byway

The historic remnants of the pioneers, who blazed this trail from Idaho's oldest town of Franklin to Caribou County's mining center of Soda Springs, paint a lively picture of the era during which the communities along the way were settled.

On this route, travelers can retrace some steps of Idaho's early pioneers and follow the historic path taken by early-day Yellowstone Park visitors. From Franklin, the state's oldest settlement, this byway heads north to Soda Springs and on to the Wyoming border. Along the way you can see the remnants of the first grist mill in Idaho, one of the original Yellowstone Highway markers, the old Mormon Academy, the site of the massacre at Bear River, Devil's Hand, the Niter Ice Cave, Last Chance Canal, cinder cones from extinct volcanoes, a section of the Oregon/California Trail, and many other historical points of interest.

Byway: Pioneer Historic Byway

Location: Begins at the Utah State line and follows U.S. 91, then Idaho 34, north to U.S. 30 and then east to Soda Springs

where it joins the Bear Lake-Caribou Scenic Byway. From there, north on Idaho 34 to the Wyoming State line.

Length: 127 miles. Allow 2.5 hours.

Roadway: U.S. 91 is a two-lane road with some passing lanes. Idaho 34 is a two-lane road with one moderately steep grade between Wayan and the Wyoming border. This is a heavy snowfall area with most winter travel being made on a snow floor. The section of Idaho 34 between Soda Springs and the Wyoming border may occasionally be closed in the winter.

When to see it: Year round.

Special attractions: Bear River Massacre Site; Red Rock Pass; Niter Ice Cave; Black Canyon; Last Chance Canal.

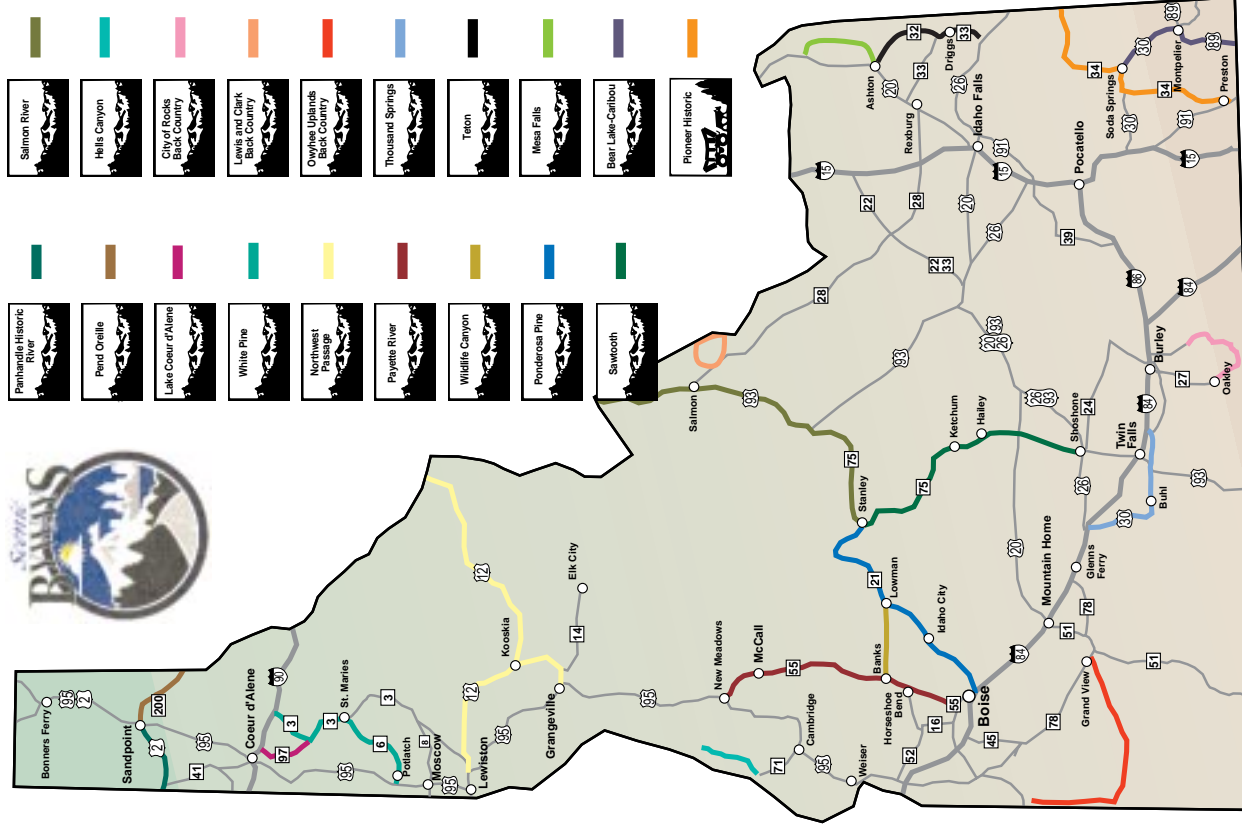
Camping: Several private R.V. parks and resorts in Caribou National Forest.

Services: Full services in Preston, Grace, Soda Springs; partial services in Franklin.

Who to call: Preston Chamber of Commerce: (208) 852-2703; Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce: (208) 547-4964; Soda Springs Ranger District: 547-4356; Pioneer Travel Council: (800) 423-8597.



Glendale Reservoir.
Photo by: Angela I. Nielson



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